

CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 30 APRIL 1996

**ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES
APRIL 1996**

MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,794,900 in March 1996, an increase of 0.1% on the previous month. Nationally, there was a fall of 0.7% in employment over the same period.
UNEMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 244,000 in March 1996, a rise of 4.1% on the previous month and a fall of 0.7% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March 1996 was 8.0% in NSW and 8.5% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	The seasonally adjusted figure for new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 2.3% from 18,486 in January 1996 to 18,911 in February 1996.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in February 1996 was 3,586, an increase of 10.6% on the previous month.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in February 1996 rose by 29.3% from January 1996 and increased 12.3% from February 1995.
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Private new capital expenditure in December Quarter 1995 for NSW on new buildings and structures increased 32.0% since the previous quarter. When compared to December Quarter 1994 expenditure on new buildings and structures, this represents an increase of 37.6%. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery increased by 9.9% since the previous quarter.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0). A *Release Advice* (1105.0) is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These publications are available from any ABS office.

Gregory W. Bray
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

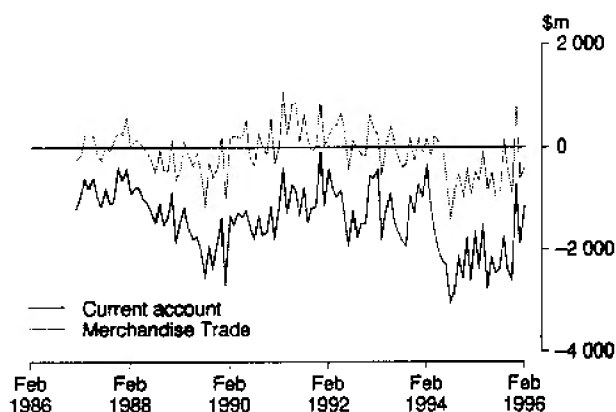
INQUIRIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 268 4376 or any ABS office.• for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 268 4611 or any ABS office.
------------	---

1

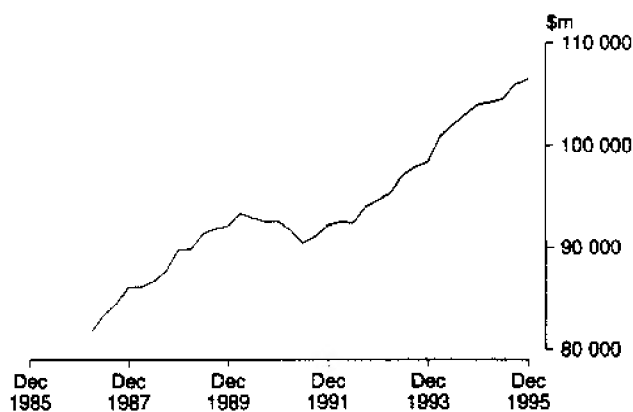
NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—							
Gross non-farm product	%	Dec. qtr 95	0.5	1.9			
Gross domestic product	%	Dec. qtr 95	0.5	2.4			
Figures for preceding periods							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
Balance of payments—							
Merchandise exports	\$m	Feb. 96	5 870	5 874	6 774	5 942	5 109
Merchandise imports	\$m	Feb. 96	-6 264	-6 475	-5 946	-6 832	-5 610
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Feb. 96	-394	-601	828	-890	-501
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Feb. 96	187	-472	854	-913	-90
Balance on current account	\$m	Feb. 96	-1 143	-1 875	-710	-2 593	-1 659
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Feb. 96	-1 713	-1 651	-1 698	-2 138	-2 450
Terms of trade for goods and services—							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		Dec. qtr 95	93.8	93.7	93.2	92.7	91.3
Exchange Rates at end of period—							
\$US/\$A		Feb. 96	0.7635	0.7447	0.7450	0.7469	0.7395
Trade weighted index of value \$A May 1970 = 100		Feb. 96	55.5	54.7	53.9	53.8	52.9
Interest Rates—							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Mar. 96	10.75-10.85	10.75	10.75	10.65-10.75	10.65-10.75

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
AUSTRALIA
(Monthly)**



**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)**

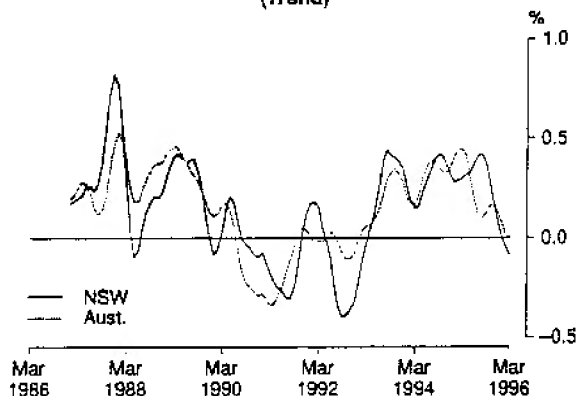


2

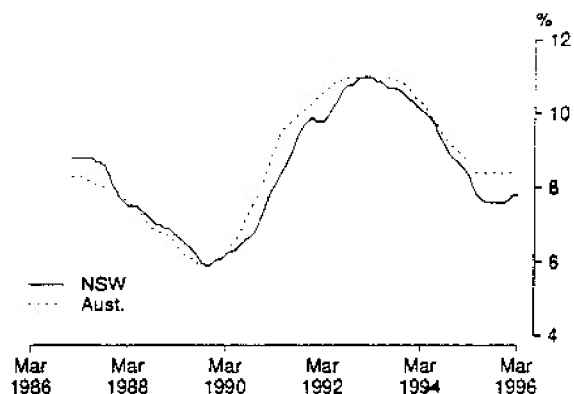
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Mar. 96	8.0	8.6	9.0	9.4	7.7	10.7	8.5
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Mar. 96	3.1	0.7	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.7
Consumer price index: all groups	Dec. qtr 95	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	5.1
Average weekly employee earnings:								
full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Nov. 95	6.3	4.1	4.6	1.3	6.8	2.7	5.1
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Feb. 96	11.6	5.8	5.9	4.6	10.1	6.0	8.2
New motor vehicle registrations	Feb. 96	1.9	12.9	9.3	13.9	15.4	-1.4	8.2
Dwelling units approved	Feb. 96	-15.8	-20.0	-17.3	-28.4	-6.6	-23.9	-17.3
Value of non-residential building approved	Feb. 96	2.6	-15.8	75.8	-38.5	-28.8	31.0	21.7
Value of all buildings approved	Feb. 96	-3.1	-10.2	12.6	-28.8	-8.6	3.7	2.7
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec. qtr 95	7.4	3.7	6.2	-0.9	96.1	69.8	15.6
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Dec. qtr 95	2.2	4.5	-1.6	-0.2	1.6	2.9	1.2
Actual private new capital expenditure	Dec. qtr 95	4.8	20.2	10.3	-21.6	-5.2	-6.2	5.6

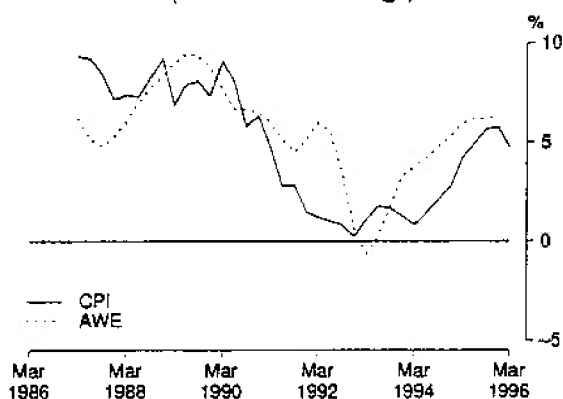
MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
(Trend)



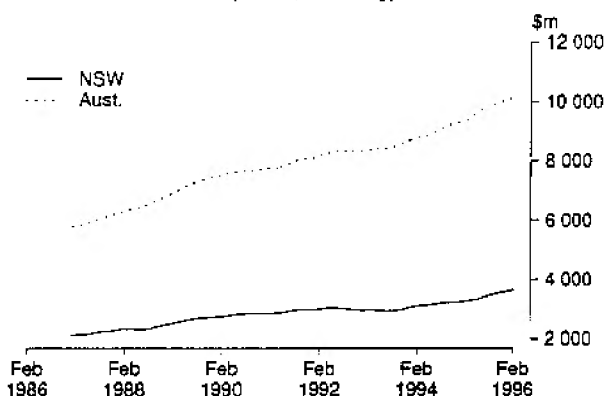
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Trend)



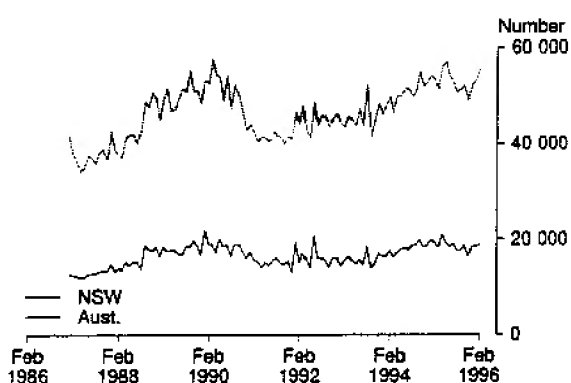
PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW
(Annual rate of change)



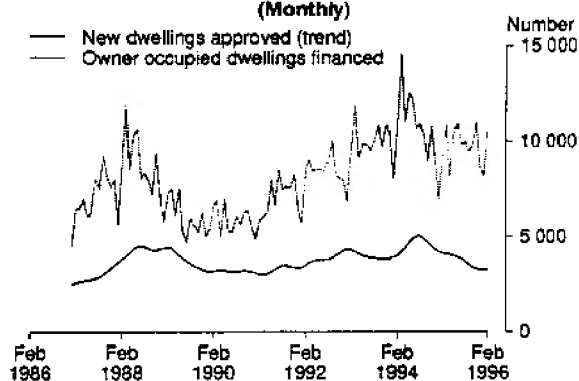
RETAIL TURNOVER
(Trend, monthly)



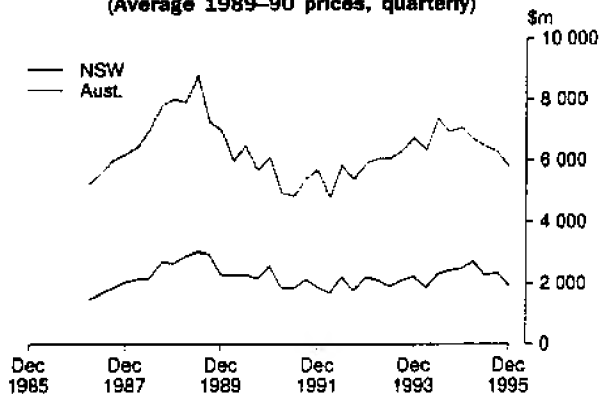
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
(Monthly)



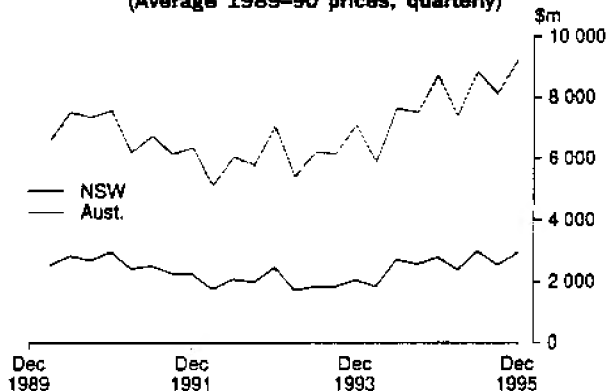
NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW
(Monthly)



VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales			Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year
				%	%		%	%
Population								
Estimated resident population	'000s	Sept. qtr 95	6 135	0.33	1.14	18 114	0.33	1.26
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000s	Mar. 96	4 844	0.13	1.29	14 280	0.14	1.49
Labour Force								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000s	Mar. 96	2 137	-0.1	2.8	6 238	-0.6	1.8
—total (original series)	'000s	Mar. 96	2 797	0.9	3.1	8 303	0.5	1.7
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Mar. 96	2 795	0.1	3.1	8 281	-0.7	1.7
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000s	Mar. 96	256	-1.5	-0.9	811	-5.3	-0.6
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Mar. 96	244	4.1	-0.7	771	0.5	-0.5
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Mar. 96	3 039	0.4	2.8	9 052	-0.6	1.5
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Mar. 96	62.7	0.3	1.5	63.4	-0.7	0.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Mar. 96	8.0	3.7	-3.4	8.5	1.1	-1.9
Job vacancies	'000s	Feb. 96	27	5.5	11.2	64	13.9	11.7
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Feb. 96	7.3	4.0	0.7	7.1	3.0	-2.6
Average Weekly Employee Earnings								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Nov. 95	694.00	1.4	6.3	661.40	1.1	5.1
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Nov. 95	585.00	0.9	3.6	554.50	0.6	2.3
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost								
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100		Mar. qtr 96	119.1	0.7	4.7	119.0	0.4	3.7
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Feb. 96	3 660	0.6	11.6	10 160	0.4	8.2
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)								
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Feb. 96	18 911	2.3	-2.4	55 493	4.2	3.9
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	Feb. 96	15 931	0.4	-3.1	46 068	3.8	3.6
		Feb. 96	2 980	13.7	1.6	9 425	6.1	5.5
Production								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Feb. 96	50.4	9.2	-19.5	107	7.1	-31.2
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Feb. 96	4 997	-2.2	-0.1	13 941	-0.4	0.9
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Feb. 96	8 163	0.1	0.1	52 756	1.0	2.7
Overseas Trade								
Imports	\$m	Mar. 96	2 742	1.2	-8.6	6 278	1.2	-7.2
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Feb. 96	1 256	-3.0	7.7	5 755	1.5	16.8
Tourism								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000s	Jan. 96	142	-19.7	6.4	317	-24.9	4.4
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000s	Jan. 96	75	-36.0	7.3	176	-37.1	5.8
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000s	Dec. qtr 95	5 576.6	-1.3	3.1	16 175.9	-0.6	2.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec. qtr 95	60.1	-0.2	2.2	59.7	-0.3	1.2
Building								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Feb. 96	3 586	10.6	-20.1	10 494	9.5	-22.0
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	Feb. 96	345	8.8	-16.0	990	7.3	-17.3
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Feb. 96	373	32.4	2.6	1 088	36.9	21.7
Value of all building	\$m	Feb. 96	774	18.7	-3.1	2 217	26.2	2.7
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Dec. qtr 95	9 248	-17.2	-30.2	30 089	-10.8	-34.2
Value of new residential buildings (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	902	-28.3	-35.7	2 787	-12.7	-31.9
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	817	-5.5	7.2	2 457	-3.3	5.2
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	1 942	-18.0	-22.3	5 788	-7.9	-18.5
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	2 402	-6.3	-2.7	6 846	-2.6	-7.5
Engineering Construction								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	306	-42.7	-72.1	1 673	-17.1	-20.5
Value of work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	660	-12.2	5.6	2 154	15.5	21.8
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	990	-19.1	-34.8	3 618	3.1	6.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	643	28.9	9.4	1 649	16.5	8.4
Finance								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Feb. 96	1 469	29.3	12.3	4 207	23.0	19.0
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Feb. 96	866	4.1	20.6	2 625	2.8	20.0
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Feb. 96	4 676	27.3	41.1	10 444	-12.3	50.7
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Feb. 96	123 219	0.8	(e)	278 142	0.1	10.4
Building societies	\$m	Feb. 96	3 668	1.3	10.6	11 487	0.9	-2.8
Credit unions	\$m	Feb. 96	5 897	0.6	16.0	13 355	0.7	15.4
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	3 128	14.7	4.8	9 758	13.3	5.6
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	792	32.0	37.6	3 131	26.4	38.0
		Dec. qtr 95	2 336	9.9	-3.1	6 627	8.0	-4.9

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises.



2130710004963

ISSN 1031-8534